

(A) Packaged, headless fish fillets that have the skin attached and are frozen or refrigerated;

(B) Headless fish fillets that have the skin attached and are held in brine; or

(C) Small pieces no larger than 3 in<sup>3</sup> (7.6 cm<sup>3</sup>) or strips no larger than 3 inches by 9 inches (7.6 cm by 22.9 cm) that have the skin attached and are frozen, refrigerated, or held in brine.

(ii) Paragraph (c)(1)(i) of this section notwithstanding, a finfish or part thereof possessed in or landed from the Gulf EEZ or Caribbean EEZ that is subsequently sold or purchased as a finfish species, rather than as bait, is not bait.

(2) Legal-sized finfish possessed for consumption at sea on the harvesting vessel are exempt from the requirement to have head and fins intact, provided—

(i) Such finfish do not exceed any applicable bag limit;

(ii) Such finfish do not exceed 1.5 lb (680 g) of finfish parts per person aboard; and

(iii) The vessel is equipped to cook such finfish on board.

(d) The operator of a vessel that fishes in the EEZ is responsible for ensuring that fish on that vessel in the EEZ are maintained intact and, if taken from the EEZ, are maintained intact through offloading ashore, as specified in this section.

**§ 622.11 Bag and possession limits—general applicability.**

This section describes the general applicability provisions for bag and possession limits specified in subparts B through V of this part.

(a) *Applicability.* (1) The bag and possession limits apply for species/species groups in or from the EEZ. Unless specified otherwise, bag limits apply to a person on a daily basis, regardless of the number of trips in a day. Unless specified otherwise, possession limits apply to a person on a trip after the first 24 hours of that trip. The bag and possession limits apply to a person who fishes in the EEZ in any manner, except a person aboard a vessel in the EEZ that has on board the commercial vessel permit required under this part for the appropriate species/species group. The possession of a commercial vessel permit notwithstanding, the bag

and possession limits apply when the vessel is operating as a charter vessel or headboat. A person who fishes in the EEZ may not combine a bag limit specified in subparts B through V of this part with a bag or possession limit applicable to state waters. A species/species group subject to a bag limit specified in subparts B through V of this part taken in the EEZ by a person subject to the bag limits may not be transferred at sea, regardless of where such transfer takes place, and such fish may not be transferred in the EEZ. The operator of a vessel that fishes in the EEZ is responsible for ensuring that the bag and possession limits specified in subparts B through V of this part are not exceeded.

(2) [Reserved]

(b) [Reserved]

**§ 622.12 Annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs) for Caribbean island management areas/Caribbean EEZ.**

(a) If landings from a Caribbean island management area, as specified in Appendix E to this part, except for landings of queen conch (see § 622.491(b)), or landings from the Caribbean EEZ for tilefish and aquarium trade species, are estimated by the SRD to have exceeded the applicable ACL, as specified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section for Puerto Rico management area species or species groups, paragraph (a)(2) of this section for St. Croix management area species or species groups, paragraph (a)(3) of this section for St. Thomas/St. John management area species or species groups, or paragraph (a)(4) of this section for the Caribbean EEZ, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year, to reduce the length of the fishing season for the applicable species or species groups that year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the applicable ACL. If NMFS determines the ACL for a particular species or species group was exceeded because of enhanced data collection and monitoring efforts instead of an increase in total catch of the species or species group, NMFS will not reduce the length of the

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fishing season for the applicable species or species group the following fishing year. Landings will be evaluated relative to the applicable ACL based on a moving multi-year average of landings, as described in the FMP. With the exceptions of Caribbean queen conch in Puerto Rico and St. Thomas/St. John management areas, goliath grouper, Nassau grouper, midnight parrotfish, blue parrotfish, and rainbow parrotfish, ACLs are based on the combined Caribbean EEZ and territorial landings for each management area. The ACLs specified in paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), and (a)(4) of this section are given in round weight.

(1) *Puerto Rico*—(i) *Commercial ACLs*. The following ACLs apply to commercial landings of Puerto Rico management area species or species groups.

(A) *Queen conch*—0 lb (0 kg), for the EEZ only.

(B) *Parrotfishes*—52,737 lb (23,915 kg).

(C) *Snapper Unit 1*—284,685 lb (129,131 kg).

(D) *Snapper Unit 2*—145,916 lb (66,186 kg).

(E) *Snapper Unit 3*—345,775 lb (156,841 kg).

(F) *Snapper Unit 4*—373,295 lb (169,324 kg).

(G) *Groupers*—177,513 lb (80,519 kg).

(H) *Angelfish*—8,984 lb (4,075 kg).

(I) *Boxfish*—86,115 lb (39,061 kg).

(J) *Goatfishes*—17,565 lb (7,967 kg).

(K) *Grunts*—182,396 lb (82,733 kg).

(L) *Wrasses*—54,147 lb (24,561 kg).

(M) *Jacks*—86,059 lb (39,036 kg).

(N) *Scups and porgies, combined*—24,739 lb (11,221 kg).

(O) *Squirrelfish*—16,663 lb (7,558 kg).

(P) *Surgeonfish*—7,179 lb (3,256 kg).

(Q) *Triggerfish and filefish, combined*—58,475 lb (26,524 kg).

(R) *Spiny lobster*—327,920 lb (148,742 kg).

(ii) *Recreational ACLs*. The following ACLs apply to recreational landings of Puerto Rico management area species or species groups.

(A) *Queen conch*—0 lb (0 kg), for the EEZ only.

(B) *Parrotfishes*—15,263 lb (6,921 kg).

(C) *Snapper Unit 1*—95,526 lb (43,330 kg).

(D) *Snapper Unit 2*—34,810 lb (15,790 kg).

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(E) *Snapper Unit 3*—83,158 lb (37,720 kg).

(F) *Snapper Unit 4*—28,509 lb (12,931 kg).

(G) *Groupers*—77,213 lb (35,023 kg).

(H) *Angelfish*—4,492 lb (2,038 kg).

(I) *Boxfish*—4,616 lb (2,094 kg).

(J) *Goatfishes*—362 lb (164 kg).

(K) *Grunts*—5,028 lb (2,281 kg).

(L) *Wrasses*—5,050 lb (2,291 kg).

(M) *Jacks*—51,001 lb (23,134 kg).

(N) *Scups and porgies, combined*—2,577 lb (1,169 kg).

(O) *Squirrelfish*—3,891 lb (1,765 kg).

(P) *Surgeonfish*—3,590 lb (1,628 kg).

(Q) *Triggerfish and filefish, combined*—21,929 lb (9,947 kg).

(2) *St. Croix*—(i) *ACLs*. The following ACLs apply to landings of St. Croix management area species or species groups.

(A) *Queen conch*—50,000 lb (22,680 kg).

(B) *Parrotfishes*—240,000 lb (108,863 kg).

(C) *Snappers*—102,946 lb (46,696 kg).

(D) *Groupers*—30,435 lb (13,805 kg).

(E) *Angelfish*—305 lb (138 kg).

(F) *Boxfish*—8,433 lb (3,825 kg).

(G) *Goatfishes*—3,766 lb (1,708 kg).

(H) *Grunts*—36,881 lb (16,729 kg).

(I) *Wrasses*—7 lb (3 kg).

(J) *Jacks*—15,489 lb (7,076 kg).

(K) *Scups and porgies, combined*—4,638 lb (2,104 kg).

(L) *Squirrelfish*—121 lb (55 kg).

(M) *Surgeonfish*—33,603 lb (15,242 kg).

(N) *Triggerfish and filefish, combined*—24,980 lb (11,331 kg).

(O) *Spiny lobster*—107,307 lb (48,674 kg).

(ii) [Reserved]

(3) *St. Thomas/St. John* — (i) *ACLs*. The following ACLs apply to landings of St. Thomas/St. John management area species or species groups.

(A) *Queen conch*—0 lb (0 kg), for the EEZ only.

(B) *Parrotfishes*—42,500 lb (19,278 kg).

(C) *Snappers*—133,775 lb (60,679 kg).

(D) *Groupers*—51,849 lb (23,518 kg).

(E) *Angelfish*—7,897 lb (3,582 kg).

(F) *Boxfish*—27,880 lb (12,646 kg).

(G) *Goatfishes*—320 lb (145 kg).

(H) *Grunts*—37,617 lb (17,063 kg).

(I) *Wrasses*—585 lb (265 kg).

(J) *Jacks*—52,907 lb (23,998 kg).

(K) *Scups and porgies, combined*—21,819 lb (9,897 kg).

(L) *Squirrelfish*—4,241 lb (1,924 kg).

(M) *Surgeonfish*—29,249 lb (13,267 kg).

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(N) *Triggerfish and filefish, combined*—74,447 lb (33,769 kg).

(O) *Spiny lobster*—104,199 lb (47,264 kg).

(ii) [Reserved]

(4) *Caribbean EEZ*—(i) *ACLs*. The following ACLs apply to landings of species or species groups throughout the Caribbean EEZ.

(A) *Tilefish*—14,642 lb (6,641 kg).

(B) *Aquarium trade species*—8,155 lb (3,699 kg).

(ii) [Reserved]

### § 622.13 Prohibitions—general.

In addition to the general prohibitions in § 600.725 of this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to do any of the following:

(a) Engage in an activity for which a valid Federal permit, license, or endorsement is required under this part without such permit, license, or endorsement.

(b) Falsify information on an application for a permit, license, or endorsement or submitted in support of such application, as specified in this part.

(c) Fail to display a permit, license, or endorsement, or other required identification, as specified in this part.

(d) Falsify or fail to maintain, submit, or provide information or fail to comply with inspection requirements or restrictions, as specified in this part.

(e) Fail to make a fish, or parts thereof, available for inspection, as specified in this part.

(f) Falsify or fail to display and maintain vessel and gear identification, as specified in this part.

(g)–(h) [Reserved]

(i) Fail to comply with any requirement or restriction regarding ITQ coupons, as specified in § 622.172.

(j) Possess wreckfish as specified in § 622.172, receive wreckfish except as specified in § 622.172, or offload a wreckfish except as specified in § 622.172.

(k) Transfer—

(1) A wreckfish, as specified in § 622.172;

(2) A limited-harvest species, as specified in this part;

(3) A species/species group subject to a bag limit, as specified in this part;

(4) South Atlantic snapper-grouper from a vessel with unauthorized gear on board, as specified in § 622.188; or

(5) A species subject to a commercial trip limit, as specified in this part.

(l) Use or possess prohibited gear or methods or possess fish in association with possession or use of prohibited gear, as specified in this part.

(m) Fish for, harvest, or possess a prohibited species, or a limited-harvest species in excess of its limitation, sell or purchase such species, fail to comply with release requirements, molest or strip eggs from a lobster, or possess a lobster, or part thereof, from which eggs, swimmerettes, or pleopids have been removed or stripped, as specified in this part.

(n) Fish in violation of the prohibitions, restrictions, and requirements applicable to seasonal and/or area closures, including but not limited to: Prohibition of all fishing, gear restrictions, restrictions on take or retention of fish, fish release requirements, and restrictions on use of an anchor or grapple, as specified in this part or as may be specified under this part.

(o) Harvest, possess, offload, sell, or purchase fish in excess of the seasonal harvest limitations, as specified in this part.

(p) Except as allowed for king and Spanish mackerel and Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic spiny lobster, possess undersized fish, fail to release undersized fish, or sell or purchase undersized fish, as specified in this part.

(q) Fail to maintain a fish intact through offloading ashore, as specified in this part.

(r) Exceed a bag or possession limit, as specified in this part.

(s) Fail to comply with the limitations on traps and pots, including but not limited to: Tending requirements, constructions requirements, and area specific restrictions, as specified in this part.

(t) Fail to comply with the species-specific limitations, as specified in this part.

(u) Fail to comply with the restrictions that apply after closure of a fishery, sector, or component of a fishery, as specified in this part.

(v) Possess on board a vessel or land, purchase, or sell fish in excess of the